



Democrats on Border Security: A Party Without a Plan

As House Republicans continue working to produce a strong border security bill to send to the President's desk, Democrats continue their same tired strategy. They vote against legislation to improve border security, and then complain. After months of discussion and debate, what is the Democrat plan?

Democrat Strategy: Vote No; Then Complain

House Democrats have voted against better border security at every opportunity.

152 House Democrats [voted against the REAL ID Act](#). Among other things, this legislation:

- § Made it more difficult for potential terrorists to obtain driver's licenses
- § Ensured completion of the 14-mile long San Diego Border Fence
- § Helped deport criminals for terrorism-related offenses

164 House Democrats [voted against the Border Protection, Anti-terrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act](#). Among other things, this legislation would:

- § Increase border security by authorizing 1,000 new border inspectors
- § Use state-of-the-art surveillance technology to ensure 100% coverage of our borders.
- § Add severe penalties for human smugglers (also known as "coyotes")
- § End "catch and release" of illegal aliens

In June 2005, 187 House Democrats [voted against an amendment to the Science State Justice Commerce Appropriations bill](#) that would have added teeth to a federal law that requires governments at all levels to comply with federal immigration laws.

After opposing strong border security measures, House Democrats then complain about the situation at the border – complaints meant to distract from the fact that Democrats have no plan when it comes to border security.

"What border residents want and what Americans want when it comes to border security and immigration reform is action." – Rep. Silvestre Reyes, (*The Washington Times*, July 19, 2006)

"You don't need to go to Laredo to know that there are millions of people illegally crossing our borders every year" – Rep. Brad Sherman, (*The Washington Post*, July 7, 2006)

"This is simply a well-orchestrated effort to have this Congress recess before the election without having dealt with one of the country's most serious national crises" – Rep. Howard Berman, (*The Dallas Morning News*, July 19, 2006)

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